

David J Griep
299 Arthur Ave
Holland, Mi. 49424
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Re: SB 188 and 189

I have spent a few years working with Michigan's re-entry program. Most recently with issues related to determining to what degree an individual's employment barriers exist, and the necessary needs and resolution(s) to overcome these employment barriers. Barriers are tremendously exacerbated by living with Michigan's sex offender statutes.

Unfortunately, Michigan's registry represents one of the third (3rd) largest in the United States. Contrary to public opinion and reaction, a great number of Michigan's registrants do not pose a threat to the public. The recidivism rate for sex offenders is very low. While some of these individuals may reoffend, it is more often not for a repeated sex offense. It is frequently a result of a technical violation. Many times relating to financial issues brought about by a registrant's inability to find and secure employment, or retain employment. Finding employment for any offender is difficult. For the sex offender, it becomes almost impossible. Finding one's self in a preverbal black hole financially leads to many unpleasant possibilities. Again, Michigan sex laws are based on statute, not future risk.

Introduced legislators now seem convinced that registrants need further putative action. Requiring the employer to publish names of sex offenders employed by them can produce very little redeeming value. There are a number of employers that value the services given by individuals dealing with their past. But they may very well desire not to be required to go public. I can guarantee and assure everyone this course of action will not produce the results they seem to think it will. It will make for continued instability for a large number of individuals that made one mistake. Continuing to have an inability to live and work in this state can only lead to additional problems. It certainly is not geared toward enhancing the safety of our communities for those that are not predators.

Respectfully,

David J Griep